

## EPISODE OUTLINE - THE NEWSPAPER

Principal Characters:      Supporting Characters:      Extras:

|     |  |       |
|-----|--|-------|
| All | Midge Smoot<br>Mayor of East Shemp<br>Jake Scoop | Usual |
|-----|--|-------|

SOCIAL THEME: Learning the difference between fact and fiction

STATION EVENT: Kids start a newspaper

THOMAS STORIES: "Buzz, Buzz" and "Percy and the Signal"

PUPPET SONG: "Old Dan Tucker"

PICTURE MACHINE SONG:

CREATIVE PLAY: Doing things with newspapers; making a newspaper

BILLY STORY: None

RESOLUTION: The kids learn that just because someone says that something is "true" doesn't necessarily mean that it is; and that lies can hurt when presented as being the truth.

STORY OUTLINE: It's a typical day at Shining Time: Stacy and Billy are working on railroad business; Mr. Conductor pops in outside the signal house on a rocking chair reading the newspaper, says a few words and pops out; Schemer is collecting his money; and the kids are making hats out of yesterday's newspaper.

Jake Scoop enters looking for a story. He sees the kids playing with the paper, and proudly points out his byline. The kids are impressed at connecting the person to the printed page. Jake is flattered, and he begins bragging about what he does.

Midge Smoot enters, and Jake begins to pump her for new gossip. The kids watch wide eyed as Jake takes notes, then dismisses her tidbits one after the other.

After Jake and Midge exit, Mr. Conductor returns in a bee keepers outfit. He comments on Jake's bragging, and Midge's "buzz, buzz" gossip. This leads into a TTE story: "Buzz, Buzz." Mr. Conductor recaps the story and vanishes.

After Mr. Conductor goes, the kids decide it would be fund to create their own newspaper. They set out to get stories from the other characters. In a 1940's style montage, with background images of papers running on the presses, we see the kids interviewing Stacy, Billy, Midge, Schemer, and the Mayor.

There are little snips to indicate what the adults are talking about. The adults are obviously flattered and also have their own ideas about what the paper should be like: Stacy describes her dreams for the station's future; Billy talks about how his ancestors have always been in Indian Valley, and how Indians are still there; Schemer takes a picture of himself and gives it to the kids to run on the front page; Midge wants a big gossip column; the Mayor wants people to know all the things he has done for them, etc.

Even the puppets discuss among themselves how they would like to appear in the paper.

The kids get together and compare their notes. They conclude two things: first, that all the adults were only interested in talking about themselves and their own interests; and secondly, that the kids don't think the stories are that interesting.

They decide to scrap the stories they got and write new ones. The kids begin to make up stories about the adults that they think are more interesting.

Puppet song over.

The headlines they come up with have a grain of truth, but are basically outright lies. For example, headlines could read: STACY SAYS: I WANT SCHEMER OUT; or MIDGE SMOOT TO MARRY MAYOR--IF HE WANTS HER; or SCHEMER SAYS HE DOESN'T LIKE HIS MOMMY; or BILLY TWOFEATHERS SAYS HIS GRANDFATHER WAS GREAT CHIEF SITTING BULL.

The kids distribute the newspaper, but the reaction is not what they had expected. The adults all believe the headlines, and begin to bicker among themselves. Horrified, the kids step forward and confess that they made up the stories because it's what they thought the adults wanted to read.

Billy is actually amused by the article about him, although he doesn't let on to the kids -- only to Mr. Conductor. To the kids he explains that he's just a "regular person" like most Indians - few of whom are actually related to Great Chiefs. But being a regular person is fine, because he's happy with who he is.

Mr. Conductor chimes in and talks about the difference between fact and fiction, telling a lie and telling the truth. This leads into TTE episode: "Percy and the Signal."

The kids are still a little confused, and share their confusion with Stacy. Stacy illustrates the difference between fact and fiction by having them create a story, with each character adding a line. It's a story about going out to the drive-in movies at night (see footage) into which the characters are ultimately weaved as they weave the storyline.

After the storytelling segment, Jake comes back to the station. He treats what happened very seriously, and talks about the importance of getting the story right, and so on. When asked if he ever got a story wrong, he replies that he never did.

what  
about  
making  
a mistake  
and then  
being  
obliged  
to print  
a retraction

The kids are wiser now, and say they've learned that just because something is in a newspaper doesn't mean it's true. Just then the Mayor enters with that day's paper which features an inaccurate article about him, written by Jake Scoop. The Mayor is angry that Jake got the facts wrong, and angrily confronts him.

Seeing this, the kids decide to do their paper over--except this time do it the way they wanted to, about the things they're interested in--and to have lots of comics.

develop further  
Kara - a story about ...  
Ran - how something works  
Guinness book of records  
Vicki - the kids  
when ~~these~~ birthdays  
are +  
what their favorite  
birthdays  
— How Shining Time  
Station Got its  
Name



## EPISODE OUTLINE - THE NEWSPAPER

Principal Characters:      Supporting Characters:      Extras:

All                              Midge Smoot                              No  
                                 Mayor of East Shemp  
                                 Jake Scoop

SOCIAL THEME:    Learning the difference between fact and fiction

STATION EVENT:   Kids start a newspaper

THOMAS STORIES:   "Percy and the Signal" and "Thomas' Train"

PUPPET SONG:    Home On The Range

PICTURE MACHINE SONG:   None

ACQUIRED FOOTAGE:   Drive In Movie footage from "Easy Living"

CREATIVE PLAY:   Doing things with newspapers; making a newspaper

BILLY STORY:   None

RESOLUTION:    The kids learn that; (1) if you say something is "true" then it must be accurate because people will believe you; and (2) that you can make amends for your mistakes.

STORY OUTLINE:   It's a typical day at Shining Time: Stacy and Billy are working on the arrival and departure board, which they note must be accurate since passengers depend on it being true; Mr. Conductor is sitting outside the signal house on a rocking chair reading the paper; Schemer is collecting his money; and the kids are making hats out of yesterday's newspaper.

Jake Scoop enters looking for a story. He sees the kids playing with the paper, and proudly points out his by-line. The kids are impressed at connecting the person to the printed page. Jake is flattered, and he begins extolling about what he does.

Midge Smoot enters, and Jake begins to pump her for new gossip. The kids watch wide eyed as Jake takes notes of her silly tidbits of gossip. After Jake and Midge exit, the kids think it would be fun to start their own newspaper, and even make up a name for it.

Mr. Conductor returns with a section of a broken signal from the Island of Sodor, which he's been helping to repair. Signals must be accurate, he says, because trains depend on them for precise information. Lately, however, Percy has been less than accurate and it's gotten him in trouble with the other engines and with the signal. This leads into the TTE story: "Percy and the Signal."



Following the story, Mr. Conductor reviews its central message: telling stories can be fun and funny, but there's a difference between a make-believe story and a "true" story. And if a story is true, it must be accurate.

After Mr. Conductor goes, the kids set out to get stories from the other characters. In a 1940's style montage, with background images of papers running on the presses, we see the kids interviewing Stacy, Billy, Midge, Schemer, and the Mayor.

There are little snips of audio to indicate what the adults are talking about. The adults are flattered, and also have their own ideas about what the paper should be like: Stacy, for instance, could talk about when her grandmother first opened the station; Schemer might take a picture of himself and give it to the kids to promote his arcade; Midge may insist on having a big gossip section; Billy would talk about his ancestry; the Mayor could put in a pitch for his reelection, and so on.

Even the puppets briefly discuss how they would like to appear in the paper.

The kids get together and compare their notes. They conclude that the stories aren't interesting enough, and decide to change the content slightly to make it more appealing--at least to them. Recalling the TTE story "Percy and the Signal," Dan cautions Kara and Vickie, but they're already involved in the rewrites.

Besides, they respond, they're only changing a word or two. And by substituting a word here and there (think of the game "Mad Libbs") the kids totally alter what the adults have told them.

The final headlines still have a grain of truth, but are basically outright lies. For example, headlines could read: STACY SAYS: I WANT SCHEMER OUT; or MIDGE SMOOT TO MARRY MAYOR--IF HE WANTS HER; or SCHEMER SAYS HE'S MAD AT HIS MOMMY; BILLY TWOFEATHER IS RELATED TO GREAT CHIEF SITTING BULL, etc.

The kids distribute the newspaper to the preoccupied adults, and while waiting for a reaction, they play a puppet song.

Puppet song: Home On the Range. - make sure you say second verse

The Boy Brothers begin to play the song, then in the middle Tito interrupts and says he has another way to play the song. Reflecting the larger theme of the show, Tito says the lyrics will be the same, but the sound is different, and then bursts into a Latin version of "Home On The Range." The entire spoken sequence should run :10.

After the song, we see the adult's reactions to the kids newspaper, and it's not what they had expected. The adults all believe the headlines, and begin to bicker among themselves. In brief encounters, we see them confront each other and

how?  
Percy - Madonna  
reminis of  
later  
albums  
or video

perhaps  
start by  
comparing  
headlines +  
one-upman-  
ship

good

★

not in  
Latin,  
but in  
sarcasm  
istic words  
+ style

Oh give me  
a castle,  
where the  
dragons are fierce  
where the  
unicorns and the  
wildbeasts play

challenge what's in the newspaper, with the underlying logic that: "If it's in the paper it must be true!" The whole thing culminates in one big argument in the middle of the station, and the dumbfounded kids look on in amazement.

When the dust settles, Vickie and Dan approach Stacy and confess that they had altered the stories for effect, never dreaming of the outcome. Stacy discusses the difference between telling a made-up story, and a true story. By way of example, she and the kids make-up a line-by-line story about going to a drive-in movie (see acquired footage).

*Stacy looks to them as an authority. They confess*

Meanwhile, in Billy's workshop, Kara is expressing her concern that Billy thinks less of her because of the exaggeration in the paper, and that it hurts her chances of growing up to be an engineer. Billy's attitude toward the newspaper, like Stacy's, is basically light-hearted. He tells Kara not to worry, and adds that he would be honored to be related to a great Chief like Sitting Bull but, like most Indians, he's just a regular person--and that's good enough for him.

*S still need famous ancestors to be a special person*

Mr. Conductor returns and fails in yet another attempt to startle Billy. The other kids join them in the workshop. Billy exits to attend to some business. The kids ask Mr. Conductor what they can do to make things better, and he responds they everyone makes mistakes, but you can amend for them by taking what you've learned and starting over again.

*to make it better than ever*

This leads into TTE episode: "Thomas' Train."

Jake comes back to the station. He treats what happened very seriously, and talks about the importance of getting the story right, and so on. When asked if he ever got a story wrong, he replies that he never did.

Just then the Mayor enters with that day's paper which features an article about him, written by Jake Scoop. The Mayor is angry that Jake got the facts wrong, and angrily confronts him.

*says he'll print a retraction*

Shown to have been in error, Jake reluctantly admits that he may have gotten a few facts wrong. The kids jump in and recap the lesson from the TTE episode: mistakes can be amended. And now the kids have decided to do their own paper over--except this time they'll do it the right way--and to have lots of comics.

make amendments  
Don't refer to  
Indians in the  
past tense

**SHINING TIME STATION**

**THE NEWSPAPER**

**BY**

**SEAN KELLY**

**FIRST DRAFT**

**JULY 2, 1991**



SCENE 1  
(MAIN SET)

(MR C. SITS IN A ROCKING CHAIR  
OUTSIDE THE SIGNAL HOUSE, READING  
A NEWSPAPER, AND SHAKING HIS HEAD  
IN DISMAY, AND CLUCKING TSK TSK)

MR C:

Shocking. Simply  
Shocking. Crime.  
Violence. Dreadful  
behavior. Scandalous.

(HE LOOKS UP)

MR C (CONTD)

Sometimes I think I ought  
to just give up reading  
the comics altogether.

(HE RETURNS TO READING FASCINATED)

(ANGLE ON VICKIE WHO IS WEARING A  
NEWSPAPER HAT HERSELF, IS SHOWING  
KARA AND DAN HOW TO MAKE THEM OUT  
OF A FOLDED NEWSPAPER)

VICKIE:

... and then you fold it  
again, like this ...  
there!

(DAN PUTS HIS HAT ON AND GRINS)

DAN:

I'm a pirate. Ahoy  
shipmates.

KARA:

Like this, Vickie?

VICKIE:

Right. Make sure the  
sides are even...

(ANGLE ON STACY AND BILLY AT THE  
ARRIVAL AND DEPARTURE BOARD)

SCENE 1 (CONTD)

(BILLY READING FROM THE SCHEDULE,  
STACY MAKING CHANGES)

STACY:

Now the Rocking Horse  
Express. Did you say  
Five Forty?

BILLY:

No, no. Five FourTEEN.

STACY:

Fourteen. Okay.

(SHE MAKES THE CHANGE, STANDS BACK  
TO ADMIRE HER WORK)

STACY CONTD:

I'm glad I double  
checked. Passengers  
expect this information  
to be true.

BILLY:

*They sure do*  
~~Indeed they do.~~ Now,  
let's double check  
everything, just to be  
sure. Let's see...Rainbow  
express, Seven oh Five.

STACY:

Seven oh Five. Check...

(ANGLE ON KIDS NOW ALL WEARING  
HATS, SALUTING EACH OTHER AND  
LAUGHING, AS JAKE SCOOP ENTERS --  
NOTE PAD AND PENCIL IN HAND)

JAKE:

Hi Vickie.

VICKIE:

Oh, hello Mr Scoop. Have  
you met Kara and Dan?

SCENE 1 (CONTD)

JAKE:

Dan. Kara. Pleased to  
meet you. I'm Scoop, of  
the Standard Press.

(HE BEGINS TO MAKE NOTES)

JAKE CONTD:

Is that Kara with a "c" or  
a "k"?

KARA:

With a "k".

VICKIE:

Mr Scoop is a newspaper  
writer.

JAKE:

Not just a writer -- a  
reporter

(HE LEANS OVER TO THEM, LOWERS HIS  
VOICE)

JAKE CONTD:

And I'm here to get the  
story. I hear the train  
schedule had been  
changed. Can you confirm  
that? On the record?

DAN:

A real reporter?

JAKE:

You said it, Dan....

(HE LOOKS CLOSELY AT DAN'S HAT,  
THEN TAKES IT FROM HIS HEAD,  
POINTING TO SOMETHING WRITTEN ON  
IT)



SCENE 1 (CONTD)

JAKE CONTD:

See -- here's my byline.  
My name on a piece I  
wrote just last week.  
"Mayor of East Shemp May  
Seek Reelection".  
Believe you me, that  
wasn't an easy story to  
get.

(HE HANDS DAN BACK HIS "HAT" -- THE  
KIDS STARE AT IT, IMPRESSED)

DAN:

So you wrote this?

KARA:

And they printed it?

DAN:

And everybody read it?  
Wow.

JAKE:

What can I say? It's a  
rough job, but somebody's  
got to do it.

(JAKE SPOTS SOMEONE BEHIND THE  
KIDS)

JAKE CONTD:

Mizz Smoot! Great to see  
you!

(ANGLE ON MIDGE SMOOT, TOWN GOSSIP,  
ON HER WAY THROUGH THE STATION. SHE  
CLEARLY HOPES JAKE'S PRESENCE  
SIGNALS A CATASTROPHE OF SOME KIND)

MIDGE:

Why, Mister Scoop. Hello.  
What are you doing here?  
Are you covering a story?  
There's nothing wrong I  
hope. Trains running  
late, missing tickets...

SCENE 1 (CONTD)

JAKE:

Of course not ma'am. All  
the news doesn't have to  
be bad news, you know..  
But speaking of  
news ...what's new?

MIDGE:

Oh, well, Mr Scoop, you  
know how I hate to  
gossip...

(JAKE, DELIGHTED, HAS HIS PAD AND  
PENCIL READY)

JAKE:

Oh, yes ma'am. I surely  
do.

MIDGE:

But I just have to tell  
somebody--

JAKE:

Of course. Of course ...

(JAKE AND MIDGE WALK AWAY FROM THE  
KIDS ... JAKE TURNS QUICKLY AND  
GIVES THEM A BIG GRIN AND THE HIGH  
SIGN, THEN RETURNS TO HIS  
"INTERVIEW")

MIDGE:

Well, it's about Ginny.  
You know, from Farmer's  
Dell? Well, she says her  
tomato crop this year is  
just fine, but I was out  
there on Saturday, and  
I'm certain I saw  
caterpillars on several  
of those leaves ... Now,  
I hate gossip, but I just  
thought someone should  
look into it...

(ANGLE ON AS JAKE AND MIDGE EXIT  
OUT OF EARSHOT, THE KIDS GIGGLE)

SCENE 1 (CONTD)

DAN:

It must be so neat  
working for a newspaper.

VICKIE:

We have a newspaper at our  
school. I wanted to be on  
it, but they said I'm too  
young. They said maybe  
next year.

KARA:

Why don't we start our  
own newspaper? Like, the  
"Kara-Vickie-Dan-News"?

VICKIE:

No --"The Shining Time  
News"

DAN:

I know! "The Shining Time  
Times"

VICKIE:  
or, "The Shining Times"

DAN:

Yeah!

KARA:

Awesome!

MR C (O.C.):

Excuse me?

(THEY TURN AND DISCOVER MR  
CONDUCTOR STANDING ON THE COUNTER.  
HE IS SETTING DOWN ON IT'S SURFACE  
WHAT IS OBVIOUSLY, FOR HIM, VERY  
HEAVY, VERY BENT RAILWAY SIGNAL)

MR C CONTD:

Would you mind lending me  
a hand?



SCENE 1 (CONTD)

VICKIE:

Sure, Mr. Conductor.

DAN:

What do you need?

MR C:

I've just come back from Sodor, where we've been trying to repair this signal. It's broken you see. It's all bent. And the trains depend on the signals. They have to be absolutely correct at all times. So I was wondering...

KARA:

Here, let me try...

(KARA BENDS OVER AND PICKS UP THE SIGNAL -- WHICH IN HER HANDS IS MODEL - RAILROAD SIZE. SHE STARTS BENDING IT BACK INTO SHAPE)

MR C:

Thanks a lot, Kara. I hope you can fix it. Percy's been having enough troubles with the signal as it is.

(DAN AND VICKIE HELP KARA HOLD, AND BEND, THE BROKEN SIGNAL BACK INTO SHAPE)

VICKIE:

Really? What happened?

MR C:

Oh, it's quite a story ...

(THOMAS INTRO FIX)

SCENE 2

(VT: TTE - "PERCY AND THE SIGNAL")

SCENE 3  
(MAIN SET)

MR C:

So you see, Percy's  
problems wasn't that he  
made up stories. That's  
fine. What he did wrong  
was to make people  
believe his made up  
stories were true.

(ANGLE ON THE KIDS, VICKIE HOLDING  
THE SIGNAL, STANDING AROUND MR  
CONDUCTOR. VICKIE LEANS DOWN WITH  
THE SIGNAL)

VICKIE:

I think Percy should be  
more careful. Here's the  
signal back, Mr  
Conductor...

(ANGLE ON: THE STRAIGHTENED AND  
REPAIRED SIGNAL IS LOWERED INTO  
FRAME AND MR CONDUCTOR TAKES IT)

MR C:

Looks good as new. Thank  
you all very much for  
repairing it. Percy will  
be pleased.

(SPFX: MR C POPS OUT)

(ANGLE ON THE KIDS. DAN PICKS UP  
PENCILS AND PAPERS FROM THE  
COUNTER, AND HANDS THEM TO KARA AND  
VICKIE)

DAN:

Well... what are we  
waiting for? We've got a  
newspaper to put out!



SCENE 4  
(ARCADE)

(VICKIE IS INTERVIEWING SCHEMER,  
WHO IS ENJOYING IT ENORMOUSLY)

SCHEMER:

Yes, I suppose you could  
say that mine is a  
typical modern success  
story. And I attribute it  
all to to hard work and  
and exceptionally keen  
business mind, which I  
inherited from my father.

VICKIE:

(WRITING)

... from his father. AND  
what about your mother  
Schemer?

SCHEMER:

Oh, my mother's very kind  
person, very honest and  
generous. I'm not like  
her at all ...

SCENE 5  
(WORKSHOP)

(KARA, WITH PENCIL AND PAPER, IS  
INTERVIEWING BILLY)

BILLY:

That's Sioux. Spelled  
"S,I,O,U,X." And if  
you're writing a piece  
about my ancestors, you  
really ought to go to the  
library and read on them.

KARA:

Okay. But were they a  
very big tribe?

Present tense

BILLY:

*they still are a proud nation*  
Oh yes. Yes indeed. And a  
very great people.  
Sitting Bull himself was  
a chief of the Sioux,  
you know.

KARA:

Really? That's  
interesting ...

SCENE 6  
(MAIN SET)

MIDGE CROSSES, DAN CHASES AFTER  
HER, PAPER AND PEN IN HAND)

DAN:

Mizz Smoot? Mizz Smoot?

(MIDGE STOPS AND TURNS, SMILING)

MIDGE:

What? Oh, Daniel, hello.  
What is it, Dear?

DAN:

Could I have an interview  
with you for our  
newspaper?

MIDGE:

Do you children have a  
newspaper? How adorable.  
Of course. Well, what  
would you like to ask me,  
dear?

DAN:

(STUMPED)

Umm...How's the mayor?

MIDGE:

The mayor? Heavens! Well  
he's fine, I suppose.

DAN:

Do you like him?

MIDGE:

(LAUGHING)

Goodness. Well, I voted  
for him ... Yes, of  
course I like him.

DAN:

Thanks.

Oh how do you spell Smoot / Smut?

(HE DASHES OFF, LEAVING MIDGE  
SHAKING HER HEAD AMUSED)

No Dear that would be Smut

Smoot is spelled oo, like ooh.



SCENE 7  
(MAIN SET)

(STACY IS AT THE INFORMATION BOOTH  
-- KARA IS INTERVIEWING HER, TAKING  
NOTES.

STACY:

Well, Kara, I think your  
readers might be  
interested in learning the  
history of Shining Time  
Station. You know, my  
grandmother was the first  
station manager here,  
back in the days of steam  
engines. Now she had  
stories to tell. I  
remember her telling me  
one winter ... Yes,  
Schemer?

(REVEAL: SCHEMER STANDING BESIDES  
KARA, EAGERLY SMILING. HE HANDS  
KARA A GLOSSY PHOTO OF HIMSELF)

SCHEMER:

Sorry, Stacy, I didn't  
mean to interrupt .. Kara,  
I thought maybe you could  
use this picture of me.  
To go with your big story.  
You know, in the paper?

KARA:

Oh. Okay Schemer. Thanks.

SCHEMER:

My pleasure.

(HE TURNS TO GO, TURNS BACK.)

SCHEMER CONTD:

Oh And it's spelled S-C-  
H-E-M-E-R. Accent on the  
"Scheme".

(HE SWAGGERS AWAY)

SCENE 7 (CONTD)

STACY:

Honestly! Sometimes that  
man is too much! Now,  
where was I?

KARA:

Your Grandmother in the  
winter.

STACY:

Oh. Right. Well, one  
night it snowed so much  
that in the morning the  
drifts were up to ..

SCENE 8  
(MAINSET)

(THE MAYOR, HOLDING A SUITCASE, IS  
CROSSING THE STATION. DAN CHASES  
AFTER HIM, WITH PAD AND PEN.)

DAN:

Mr Mayor. Your honor? Mr  
Mayor?

MAYOR:

What is it, young fellow?

DAN:

May<sup>I</sup> interview you for  
our newspaper?

MAYOR:

Well -- anything for the  
press -- but I've got a  
train to catch, so make  
it snappy.

(MAYOR SETS DOWN HIS SUITCASE,  
TAKES HIS INTERVIEW POSE)

DAN:

Yes sir. Uhm...

MAYOR:

Well?

DAN:

(STUMPED)

Do you like Mizz Smoot?

MAYOR:

Pardon me -- who?

DAN:

Miss Smoot.

SCENE 8 (CONTD)

MAYOR:

Oh, yes. Lovely woman.  
Certainly. I like  
everyone who voted for  
me.

DAN:

Thanks.

(HE DASHES OFF)

MAYOR:

(CALLS AFTER HIM)

Wait! Don't you want to  
hear about my plans for a  
new sewer system? Oh,  
well ..

(HE PICKS UP HIS SUITCASE, AND  
EXITS)

DISSOLVE TO:



SCENE 9

(INT. JUKEBOX)

(PUPPETS GRACE AND TITO ARE  
CHATTING)

TITO:

If those kids were smart,  
they'd put my picture in  
their newspaper. If my  
fans saw my picture,  
they'd go bananas..

GRACE:

If they're your fans,  
they must be pretty  
bananas to begin with.

DISSOLVE TO:

SCENE 10  
(MAINSET)

(VICKIE, KARA AND DAN ARE GATHERED  
AROUND THE COUNTER, WITH THEIR NOTES  
SCATTERED IN FRONT OF THEM.)

VICKIE:

So, here they are, All  
our stories. And you know  
what?

KARA:

What?

VICKIE:

They're kind of ...well,  
they're good, but they're  
a bit...

DAN:

What?

VICKIE:

Boring:

KARA:

I know.

DAN:

Yeah...I know. I've got,  
"Mayor likes Midge Smoot.  
and she like him." So  
what?

VICKIE:

Wait...what if we wrote:  
Mayor and Midge in Love?

KARA:

No, no -- better -- Midge  
Smoot will marry Mayor.

*miss probably the best  
miss best  
miss sensational  
turning point  
what about bickering  
one upmanship*

SCENE 10 (CONTD)

DAN:

But they didn't say that.  
I don't think he wants  
to.

VICKIE:

(WRITING)

Okay, okay ... Midge  
Smoot might marry Mayor --  
but he doesn't want to.  
Great. Now. When you were  
talking to Stacy, Kara,  
didn't she say anything,  
you know , funny?

KARA:

Well .. she said Schemer  
was "too much."

DAN:

(WRITING)

Great! Great! "Stacy Mad  
at Schemer." What a  
headline! What a story!  
Did Schemer say he was  
mad at Stacy?

KARA:

No...

(SHE LOOKS AT HER NOTES)

VICKIE:

Well, he said he likes his  
father ...

DAN:

Better than his mother?

KARA:

Sort of...

SCENE 10 (CONTD)

VICKIE:

(WRITES)

That's it! "Schemer mad  
at his Mommy." So, now.  
That leaves my story on  
Billy. What do you think,  
Dan?

DAN:

(READING IT)

Wow! Did he really say  
he's related to chief  
Sitting Bull?

VICKIE:

Well... he said they were  
both Sioux...

KARA:

(WRITES)

Excellent! Billy Two  
Feathers is grandson of  
Chief Sitting Bull!

(THEY ALL LOOK ENORMOUSLY PLEASED  
WITH THEMSELVES.)

DAN:

Okay. Let's go print them  
up!

KARA:

Yes!

VICKIE:

Let's go to press!

DISSOLVE TO:



SCENE 11  
(MAINSET)

(MIDGE SMOOT AND MAYOR ARE SITTING ON A BENCH -- SHE IS READING A MAGAZINE (PEOPLE?), HE IS READING SOME PAPERS OUT OF HIS BRIEF CASE. SCHEMER IS POLISHING HIS MACHINES. STACY IS COUNTING AND STACKING TICKETS. KARA, DAN AND VICKIE WANDER AROUND HAPPILY, CARRYING PILES OF STAPLED-TOGETHER PAPERS. WHICH THEY PLACE NEAR EACH ADULT...AND THE THREE KIDS MEET UP, BY PLAN, BESIDE THE JUKE BOX.)

*What about Not Enguwer size paper*

(NOTE: IF MUSIC IS USED FOR THE STOCK FOOTAGE "GETTING OUT THE PAPER" EARLIER, IT SHOULD BE REPRISED HERE)

DAN:

You think they'll like  
it?

VICKIE:

Sure they will! How could  
they not?

KARA:

I can't wait...

(PAUSE. THE ADULTS CONTINUE WITH  
THEIR PREOCCUPATIONS)

KARA: (CONTD)

I feel like shouting  
"Newspaper!"

DAN:

Let's play something loud  
on the juke box.

VICKIE:

Good idea!

(SHE DROPS IN A COIN.)

(CUT TO:)

SCENE 12

(INT. JUKE BOX)

(AS THE COIN ROLLS DOWN THE SLOT,  
EVERYONE COMES TO ATTENTION. TITO  
GRABS THE COIN, AND SAYS TO THE BOY  
BROTHERS)

TITO:

Hit it, boys!

(TEX AND REX COMMENCE SINGING "HOME  
ONT HE RANGE". AFTER A VERSE AND  
CHORUS, TITO STOPS THEM.)

TITO:

Hold it, fellows. I have  
and idea. What if we  
spice it up a little bit,  
you know? Same words,  
same song -- but with  
some salsa on it, as we  
say. One, two, one two  
three...

(ANOTHER VERSE AND CHORUS, BUT WITH  
A ROCKING LATIN BEAT.)

DISSOLVE TO:

SCENE 13  
(MAINSET)

(AS THE KIDS GAZE ON, AMAZED, FROM THE ARCADE AREA. THE ADULTS CARRY ON TO THE SAME TEMPO AND VOLUME AS THE SONG. THAT IS. LOUD AND FAST. AND THEY ARE WAVING THE NEWSPAPERS AT ONE ANOTHER AS THEY POINT AND SHOUT.)

(ANGLE ON: MIGDE AND MAYOR)

MIDGE:

I'll have you know,  
Mister Mayor, that I  
wouldn't marry you if you  
were the last Mayor on  
earth!

MAYOR:

My dear woman, I hasten  
to assure you that I was  
misquoted.

MIDGE:

Oh, certainly. Blame the  
press. That's what you  
politicians always do,  
isn't it?

(SHE STORMS OUT, WITH MAYOR  
FOLLOWING)

MAYOR:

My dear Madame. My dear  
Miss Miss Smoot. My dear  
Voter!

(ANGLE ON: SCHEMER AND STACY)

STACY:

I am certainly not mad at  
you. Schemer!

SCHEMER:

Oh no? Then how come it  
says you are, right there  
in black and white?

SCENE 13 (CONTD)

SCHEMER: (CONTD)

If it says it in print,  
it must be true!

STACY:

Really? Then I suppose it  
must be true that you're  
mad at your mother!

SCHEMER:

What? I love my Mommy.

STACY:

That's not what it says  
here.

(SCHEMER LOOKS, BOGGLED)

SCHEMER:

Oh, no. What if my Mommy  
sees this. I'd better get  
home right now.

(HE RUSHES OUT)

SCHEMER:

(WAILING)

Mommy? It's not true! I  
didn't say it.  
Mommyyyyyyy.....

(ANGLE ON: KIDS COWERING BY THE  
JUKE BOX)

KARA:

You two talk to Stacy.  
I've gotta go see Billy.  
He's going to be so  
mad...

(KARA HEADS FOR THE WORKSHOP...DAN  
AND VICKIE SLOWLY APPROACH STACY.  
SHE HAS HER BACK TURNED TO THEM.  
SHE IS READING THE PAPER, AND  
SILENTLY SMILING BROADLY -- ALMOST  
LAUGHING)



SCENE 13 (CONTD)

(WHEN SHE HEARS THEM, SHE  
COMPOSES HERSELF, ASSUMING A  
STRAIGHT FACE BEFORE TURNING  
AROUND)

VICKIE:

Stacy?

DAN:

We didn't mean to make  
everyone so upset...

STACY:

Well you two. This is  
quite a piece  
of...Creative Writing  
you've done here. Romance  
in bloom. family quarrels,  
famous Indian chiefs...

DAN:

Well, it's all  
true...sort of.

VICKIE:

We just didn't want it to  
be....boring.

STACY:

I see. Well, you were  
quite successful then. I  
suppose. What do you  
think?

(PAUSE)

DAN:

What's wrong with  
"Creative Writing"? I  
thought "creative" was  
good.

SCENE 13 (CONTD)

STACY:

Well, Dan, you know  
there's a big difference  
between -- uhm -- between  
writing a story down and  
making a story up. For  
instance...well, remember  
the other night, when we  
all went to the movies  
together?

DAN:

Yes.

STACY:

Alright. I'll try to do <sup>a</sup>  
report on that night. You  
two help. it all began on  
a dark and stormy night...

VICKIE:

It wasn't stormy.

DAN:

It wasn't even dark when  
it began.

STACY:

Okay. the sun was  
setting...

DAN:

That's better.

DISSOLVE TO:

SCENE 14

(VT: (AF) "EASY LIVING")

(STACY, DAN AND VICKIE ARE KEYED  
IN...STACY CONTINUES TO TELL THE  
"STORY", DAN AND VICKIE CORRECTING  
HER...)

STACY:

Footsore and weary, we  
trudged through the  
blazing heat...

VICKIE:

We took the car.

DAN:

It was nice and cool.

STACY:

We drove to the theater,  
then. Suddenly, we were  
surrounded by monstrous  
machines, roaring and  
snarling in the darkness.

DAN:

Other people's cars!

STACY:

True. (PAUSE) The gates  
swung wide, and we were  
admitted to the castle by  
a cruel and sinister  
servant.

VICKIE:

What castle?

DAN:

That was the ticket  
taker. And he's my cousin  
Jim.

STACY:

Oh. sorry, Jim.

what happens in video  
story?  
deal with  
sensationalized  
narrative  
or sensational?

SCENE 14 (CONTD)

(PAUSE)

STACY:

An air of mystery  
surrounded us, as we  
waited in suspense for  
what seemed an  
eternity...

(THIS TO COINCIDE WITH "10  
MINUTES" ON THE SCREEN)

VICKIE:

You got us some popcorn  
and a soda.

STACY:

There, cowering in the  
darkness, we were offered  
strange and exotic foods  
and beverages by unseen  
voices...

DAN:

No I'm starting to get  
scared.

VICKIE:

Me too.

STACY:

Whoops. Sorry kids. Let's  
go home.

(STACY SNAPS HER FINGERS AT THE  
KIDS AND WE...)

CUT TO:

SCENE 15  
(MAIN SET)

(SMILING, STACY HAS AN ARM AROUND  
BOTH DAN AND VICKIE)

VICKIE:

That was a real story.

STACY:

Yes. But it wasn't the  
real story, was it?

DAN:

Okay. I see what you  
mean...

VICKIE:

Me too. (PAUSE) Where's  
Kara?

CUT TO:



SCENE 16  
(WORKSHOP)

(KARA SITS NEAR A STERN LOOKING  
BILLY, WHO IS LOOKING AT THE  
PAPER.)

BILLY:

Grandson of Sitting  
Bull. huh? Who told you  
that? I never said a  
thing like that.

KARA:

Well, you told Vickie you  
were related to him,  
didn't you?

BILLY:

I said my people were  
Sioux. I'm proud of that.  
But I don't have to  
brag...

*I'm proud of my  
ancestors*

KARA:

Billy...(PAUSE) does this  
mean you don't like me  
anymore? Does this mean I  
can't grow up to be an  
engineer like you?

*I don't need famous ancestors  
to be proud of them*

(BILLY REALIZES THAT HE SEEMS TO BE  
TAKING THIS MORE SERIOUSLY THAN HE  
MEANS TO. HE SMILES, AND TAKES  
KARA'S HANDS.)

BILLY:

Kara! It's all right.  
Don't be silly. It's just  
a mistake. Everybody  
makes mistakes. Even me.  
And I'm Sitting Bull's  
grandson -- I read it in  
the newspaper.

*Confusing  
to young kids*

*kids may  
not understand  
scream or  
long*

(HE LAUGHS, AND SHE SMILES BACK AT  
HIM.)

(MR CONDUCTOR APPEARS BEHIND BILLY,  
HE SIGNALS TO KARA TO BE QUIET --  
HE'S GOING TO SCARE BILLY. HE

TIPTOES CLOSE TO HIM, AND SHOUTS)  
SCENE 16 (CONTD)

MR C:

Hi! Billy Two Feathers!

(BILLY'S EYES FLICKER, BUT HE  
DOESN'T OTHERWISE GIVE HIMSELF  
AWAY. HE STANDS, NEVER LOOKING IN  
MR C'S DIRECTION.)

BILLY:

Excuse me a minute, Kara.  
I have to ask Stacy  
something.

(HE EXITS. MR C. SNAPS HIS FINGERS.  
IN DISMAY - FOILED AGAIN.)

VICKIE: (OC)

Hi Kara. Hi Mr Conductor.

(VICKIE ENTERS WITH DAN, AND WITH  
KARA THEY GATHER AROUND MR  
CONDUCTOR.)

DAN:

Boy, Mr Conductor, are we  
in trouble! What are we  
going to do.

MR C:

Don't be so worried, Dan.  
I'm sure things will be  
all right. I'm sorry you  
weren't here to hear what  
my friend Mr Two Feathers  
just told Kara.

DAN:

About what?

MR C:

About mistakes. And how  
they're all right, as  
long as you learn  
something from them. Back  
in Sodor, Thomas just  
found that out for

*Instead Billy  
could turn around  
quickly to catch  
mr c tiptoeing  
behind him  
and say  
2 head some footsteps  
Can 2 help you.*

himself.  
SCENE 16 (CONTD)

VICKIE:

How was that.

MR C:

Well, I'll tell you...

DISSOLVE TO:

SCENE 17

(VT: TTE, "THOMAS' TRAIN"

DISSOLVE TO:

SCENE 18  
(WORKSHOP)

MR C:

You see? People  
understand if we make  
mistakes. Worthwhile  
people do, anyway. So the  
*again* only important thing  
about a mistake is to try  
not to make it again.

*do what you can to  
~~try to~~ make up for it  
learn from it so that  
you don't make it again*

(SPFX: MR C POPS OUT)

CUT TO:



SCENE 19  
(MAIN SET)

(SCHEMER IS WITH STACY AND BILLY)

SCHEMER:

...and I was almost at  
the airport when I  
remembered -- Hey! my  
mother lives in Alaska!  
She's never going to see  
this paper! What am I  
worried about?

*choose non-specific place*

(KIDS ENTER FROM THE WORKSHOP)

VICKIE:

Hi, Schemer. Sorry about  
your mother.

SCHEMER:

Well, she'll get over  
it...But you're going to  
have to be extra nice to  
me from now on, that's  
all...

JAKE: (OC)

Who wrote this? Who's  
responsible for this...

(ANGLE ON: JAKE STORMING IN, WAVING  
A COPY OF THE PAPER)

JAKE: (CONTD)

...this "Shining Times",  
this disgrace to  
journalism, that's what I  
want to know.

KARA:

*did*  
I am. I mean, we are. *did*

JAKE:

Well, listen up kids, and  
listen good. THIS is  
NOT...REPORTING! if you  
want to be in the  
newspaper game -

SCENE 19 (CONTD)

JAKE: (CONTD)

- you've got to get your  
facts, your facts, and  
double-check your facts  
before you go to press...

KARA:

We know that now, Mr  
Scoop.

VICKIE:

We know there's a  
difference between  
telling a story *than* *and making up a*  
telling the story.

JAKE:

Maybe. I wouldn't know. I  
never make 'em.

DAN:

Never?

JAKE:

In my reporting? Never.

MAYOR: (OC)

(SHOUTING)

Scoop! Where's Scoop? I'm  
looking for that  
nincompoop Scoop!

ANGLE ON:

(MAYOR STORMING IN, WAVING A REAL  
NEWSPAPER.)

JAKE:

Mr Mayor. Here I am, your  
honor.

SCENE 19 (CONTD)

MAYOR:

And are you the author of  
this... this...  
journalistic atrocity?

(JAKE LOOKS AT THE PAPER THE MAYOR  
IS WAVING AROUND. JAKE'S HEAD  
TRAVELS WITH IT.)

JAKE:

The report in your  
campaign speech? Yes sir.  
I wrote that.

MAYOR:

Well, read this here.  
Read it.

(JAKE TAKES THE PAPER, BEGINS TO  
READ WHERE THE MAYOR IS POINTING.)

JAKE:

(READING)

"His honor said he was  
here tonight to talk  
garbage." Well?

MAYOR:

I said I was there to  
talk about garbage! Trash  
collection, clean  
streets, recycling.

JAKE:

Oh. Sorry.

MAYOR:

Well, what are you going  
to do about it?

JAKE:

We'll print a re-  
traction, sir. In  
tomorrow's paper. No  
problem.

SCENE 19 (CONTD)

KARA:

What's a "retraction"?

JAKE:

When a newspaper makes a mistake -- yes, yes , it happens sometimes -- we publish a piece as soon as possible saying we were wrong, and we apologize.

(JAKE AND THE MAYOR BEGIN TO EXIT TOGETHER)

JAKE: (CONTD)

You know, your honor, it's all right to make mistakes, if you learn from your mistakes. Didn't you say that once in a speech?

MAYOR:

No -- but I will now...

VICKIE:

C'mon guys, let's get busy.

(SHE SCOOPS UP PAPERS AND PENCILS)

DAN:

With what?

KARA:

On what?

VICKIE:

With our special "Retraction" issue of the Shining Times.

DAN:

Great idea.

SCENE 19 (CONTD)

KARA:

Excellent!

DAN:

Vickie? Kara? (PAUSE)  
this time, let's put in a  
lot of comics.

(FADE)